

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT  
**NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION**  
 (PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner  
 US Department of Commerce  
 United States Patent and Trademark  
 Office, PCT  
 2011 South Clark Place Room  
 CP2/5C24  
 Arlington, VA 22202  
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE  
 in its capacity as elected Office

<b>Date of mailing</b> (day/month/year) 04 May 2001 (04.05.01)	
<b>International application No.</b> PCT/AU00/00968	<b>Applicant's or agent's file reference</b> 9380PC2-PCF
<b>International filing date</b> (day/month/year) 14 August 2000 (14.08.00)	<b>Priority date</b> (day/month/year) 13 August 1999 (13.08.99)
<b>Applicant</b> DURACK, Michael, James	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

09 March 2001 (09.03.01)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The election  was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland  Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer  Beatriz LARGO  Telephone No.: (41-22) 740.14.35
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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

**(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau**



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1/50, 7/30, 7/32

**(71) Applicant and**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU00/00968

(71) **Applicant and**  
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Lambert Street, Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068 (AU).

(22) International Filing Date: 14 August 2000 (14.08.2000)

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**(25) Filing Language:** English

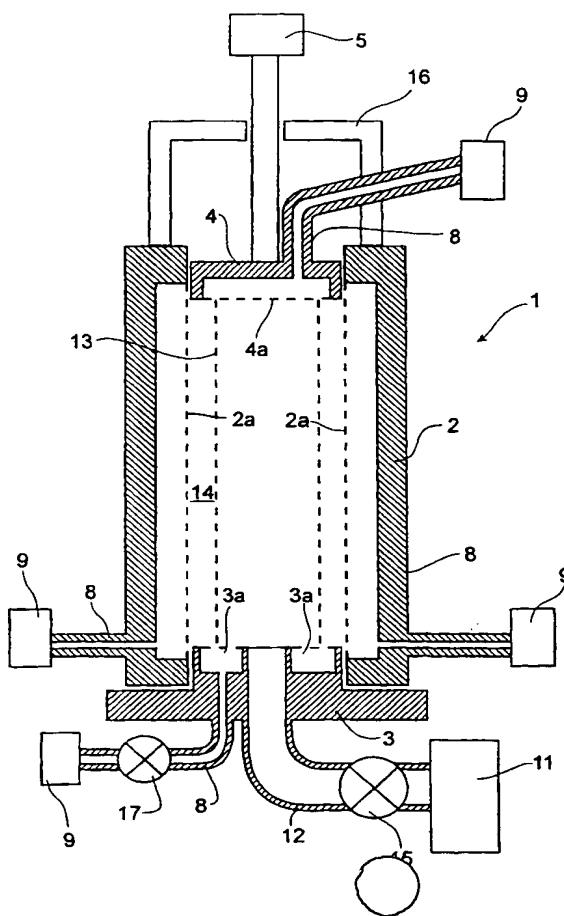
(81) **Designated States (national):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

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[Continued on next page]

**(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOULDING PASTES AND SLURRIES**



**(57) Abstract:** A high strength lightweight product formed from particulate inorganic materials such as a masonry building block is formed in a mould (1) from a flowable slurry of inorganic particulate materials and water. The interior of the mould is lined with perforate walls (2a, 3a, 4a, 3) fluidically coupled to a vacuum source (9). The fluid slurry contains entrained air and when pumped into the mould under superatmospheric pressure the gas bubbles contract in size. The fluidic mass is then subjected to subatmospheric pressure which enables the gas bubbles to expand and expel excess moisture from the mass.

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IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**Published:**

— *With international search report.*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00968

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

Int. Cl. 7: B28B1/26, 1/50, 7/30, 7/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

B28B1/26, 1/50, 7/30, 7/32

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

AU IPC AS ABOVE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPAT: Dewater and vacuum and pressure

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 2066139 A Shigeo Ando (8 July 1981)	
A	US 5700409 A Arthur A. Corry (23 December 1997)	
A	EP 0396302 A.C.G.Bevan Ass. Ltd. (07 November 1990)	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C  See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
6 September 2000Date of mailing of the international search report  
11 SEP 2000Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU  
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE  
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA  
E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au  
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
Information on patent family members

International application No.  
PCT/AU00/00968

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member				
GB	2066139	AU	60247/80	DE	3031982	FR	2471264
		IT	1193957	JP	56099610	US	4335065
		JP	56133111	JP	56135005	JP	56142008
US	5700409	NONE					
EP	396302	AU	54578/90	BR	9002049	CA	2015617
		GB	2231000	JP	3061503	NO	901973
		US	5139409				
END OF ANNEX							

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

REC'D 23 MAR 2001

PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 9308pc2	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).	
International Application No. <b>PCT/AU00/00968</b>	International Filing Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 14 August 2000	Priority Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 13 August 1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>Int. Cl. 7 B28B1/26,1/50,7/30,7/32</b>			
<b>Applicant</b> <b>APPLIED TECHNOLOGY &amp; PLANNING PTY LTD et al</b>			

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).</p>																
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">I</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td>II</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td>III</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IV</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>V</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VI</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VII</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VIII</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report	II	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority	III	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	IV	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention	V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	VI	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited	VII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application	VIII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application
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VIII	<input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application															

Date of submission of the demand <b>9 March 2001</b>	Date of completion of the report <b>15 March 2001</b>
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU  <b>AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE</b> <b>PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA</b> <b>E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au</b> <b>Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929</b>	Authorized Officer  <b>G.Carter</b> Telephone No. (02) 6283

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00968

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:\* the international application as originally filed. the description,      pages , as originally filed,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages , received on      with the letter of

 the claims,      pages , as originally filed,

pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages , received on      with the letter of

 the drawings,      pages , as originally filed,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages , received on      with the letter of

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages , as originally filed

pages , filed with the demand

pages , received on      with the letter of

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, was on the basis of the sequence listing: contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description,      pages the claims,      Nos. the drawings,      sheets/fig.5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/00968

V. **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-24	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-24	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-24	YES
	Claims	NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The related art did not disclose a method or apparatus for dewatering moulding pastes in a mould in which excess water is expressed from the moulding material by volumetric expansion within the material.